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At Joan B. Mirviss, 'Fired By Tradition' Features Masterworks By Nishihata Tadashi

NEW YORK CITY — Joan B. Mirviss Ltd is presenting "Fired by Tradition: Masterworks by Nishihata Tadashi" through July 29, featuring a completely fresh body of work by this Tanba master.

Based in the riverside town of Tachikui in Hyogo Prefecture, home to the medieval ceramic center of Tanba, Tadashi (b 1948) works in the centuries-old traditions of his ancestors. As one of the six ancient kilns of Japan, Tanba has long been celebrated for its simple storage jars, vases and sake implements made from the local iron-rich clay and fired either unglazed or with natural and applied ash glazes.

Somewhat remotely located, about equidistant between Kyoto and Osaka, Tachikui has remained a lovely, tranquil spot surrounded by hills and populated with family-run ceramic studios.

A master of the Tanba ceramic tradition, Tadashi is responsible for reinventing the ancient art of red akadobe glazing following decades of experimentation. It is his unique colorful ash glazing (hai-yu), however, that is the focus of this exhibition.

Melted by the heat of the fir-



Nishihata Tadashi (b 1948), wide mouthed spherical Tanba vessel (shown front and back) with diamond-shaped carved surface patterning and ladle-poured ash glaze, 2010, wood-fired stoneware with ash glaze, 10¼ by 12¼ by 10⅝ inches. Courtesy of Joan B Mirviss Ltd, New York City. —Richard Goodbody photo

ing (yohen), the ash glaze runs and drips over the uneven sculpted clay surfaces and pools into their recesses. Ranging from pale aqua to deep emerald green, this luscious glaze, punctuated with occasional touches of iron-oxide glaze, beautifully complements his faceted forms. Grounded in tradition and deeply conscious of his family's ceramic heritage, the artist continues to explore the dialogue between functional material and sculpture while remaining inspired by the scenery around him.

Joan B Mirviss Ltd is at 39

East 78th Street. For information, www.mirviss.com or 212-799-4021.

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